

Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-17, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~An apparatus for the interstitial coagulation of tissues, ~~with at least one electrode (10) by way of which a HF coagulation current can be conducted into the tissue, wherein the electrode (10) is constructed as comprising~~ a three-dimensional body that can be expanded to various states of expansion, ~~or is attached to such a body (14), so that by continuous or~~ and at least one electrode adapted to conduct an HF coagulation current into said tissue, the electrode forming at least a part of said three-dimensional body such that by one of continuous and stepwise expansion of [[the]] ~~said~~ body (10, 14) the ~~said~~ electrode (10) can be kept in constant electrical contact with the tissue during coagulation.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a control device[[+3]] is provided for controlling the [[state]]~~degree~~ of expansion of the body (10, 14) ~~in dependence~~dependent on [[the]]~~said~~ coagulation current.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control device (3) is disposed and constructed so as is adapted to enable an adjustment of a current density of [[the]]~~said~~ coagulation current between said electrode [[+10]] and ~~said~~ tissue.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to one of the preceding claims, in particular ~~The apparatus~~ according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said control device (3) is designed so that permits the current density [[can]] to be adjusted independently of the [[state]]~~degree~~ of expansion.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that ~~Claim 1, wherein~~ measurement devices

~~[(4)]~~ are provided for detecting the state of expansion of ~~the said three-dimensional body~~ ~~(10, 14)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that ~~the~~ Claim 1, wherein said electrode comprises a treatment electrode~~[(+10)]~~ that is at least partially permeable to liquid and that can be brought into contact with a section of ~~[[the]]~~ said tissue, ~~as well as a~~ and comprising a liquid-supply device ~~(20)~~ for liquid through which an electrically conductive liquid can be delivered to ~~[[the]]~~ said treatment electrode ~~[(+10)]~~, and a current supply device ~~(30, 31)~~ adapted to deliver ~~[[the]]~~ said HF coagulation current to ~~[[the]]~~ said treatment electrode ~~[(+10)]~~ in such a way that ~~[[the]]~~ said HF treatment current ~~can be~~ is conducted to the liquid that is passing through the treatment electrode~~[(+10)].~~]].

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to one of the preceding claims, in particular The apparatus according to Claim 6, characterized in that ~~the~~ wherein said treatment electrode ~~[(+10)]~~ comprises one of an elastically stretchable ~~[[or]]~~ and an unfoldable surface element ~~(11)~~ on the inside ~~(12)~~ of ~~which~~, i.e. the side opposite the tissue, there is disposed ~~that~~ defines an interior space ~~[(+13)]~~ to which an internal pressure can be applied ~~so that the~~ to expand said surface element ~~(11)~~ can be expanded by increasing the internal pressure.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to one of the preceding claims, in particular The apparatus according to Claim 7, characterized in that ~~the~~ wherein said surface element ~~(11)~~ is shaped like is in the form of one of a ring ~~[[or]]~~ and a sphere.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6 – 8, characterized in that ~~the~~ The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said treatment electrode ~~(10, 10')~~ is constructed in the ~~[[shape]]~~ form of a balloon catheter.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7 – 9,

~~characterized in that the~~The apparatus according to Claims 7, wherein said interior space (13) canis adapted to be filled with [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6 – 10,~~
~~characterized in that the~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive liquid comprises one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), a surfactant [[or]] and a similar means of changing the viscosity of [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6 – 11,~~
~~characterized in that the treatment electrode (10, 10')~~ comprises a film, a felt or a woven fabric and preferably~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said treatment electrode is made of a thermally stable material, in particular a tetrafluoroethylene material.~~ in the form of one of a film, a felt and a woven fabric.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7 – 12,~~
~~characterized in that the interior space (13) comprises~~The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said interior space is enclosed by an expandable auxiliary body [[(14)]] that is hydraulically separated from [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid, [[the]] and said surface element (11) preferably beingis constructed in several layers ~~so~~such that in an inner layer [[(15)]] liquid can be conducted in ~~the surfacea~~ direction [[while]] towards an outer surface of the element and in an outer layer [[(16)]] liquid can be conducted in a direction perpendicular to the surface direction, and preferably between the inner layer (15) and the outer layer (16) a partition layer (17) with a greater resistance to flow is disposed.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized byClaim 6, wherein a suction device (22, 23) is provided to suck away (excess) liquid.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in thattheClaim 1, wherein said electrode (10)

~~is constructed so that it is adapted to be supplied with a cutting current can be applied to it.~~

16. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said thermally stable material is comprised of tetrafluoroethylene.

17. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein a partition layer with a greater resistance to liquid flow than said inner layer is disposed between said inner layer and said outer layer.